



# 2001 Wetland Reserve Program

## Program Focus —

The main focus of WRP in Florida has been to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds including threatened and endangered species. Other benefits of wetlands include water quality improvement, floodwater storage and recreation.

There have been two predominant wetland types enrolled in the WRP in Florida. In the central part of the state many large vegetable farms created from drained wetlands have been enrolled in WRP. In the southern part of the state many large cattle ranches which include wetland areas that have been ditched to improve drainage for forage production have enrolled in the program.

## Eco-tourism

There is substantial interest in Florida in developing Eco-tourism as a compliment to the State's more traditional tourism venues. Restored wetlands with large and colorful wading birds are a highly sought after Eco-tourism attraction.

## Florida Summary

### Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements.

In Florida, there is strong interest and participation in the WRP to restore and protect wetlands. During fiscal year 2001, 32 applications covering more than 91,000 acres and requesting \$121 million of WRP funds were received. The fiscal year 2001 WRP allocation was \$8 million. This enabled 13 projects on almost 4,000 acres to be funded. All of the fiscal year 2001 allocation was obligated.

### Accomplishments

There were almost 20,000 acres in the process of being restored during fiscal year 2001. At the Orange Creek site in Marion County more than 12 miles of levees were pushed down and the borrow ditch filled to hydrologically reconnect almost 2,000 acres of wetland with the natural water system. At the Broadmoor site in Brevard County restoration is almost complete on an active management marsh system. Although not fully restored the site is already attracting large numbers of shorebirds, wading birds and waterfowl. Endangered species such as the wood stork, Audubon's crested Caracara and the whooping crane have been seen at the site. At the Moccasin Island site in Brevard County restoration has proceeded faster than anticipated and more than 10 miles of dikes have been pushed into the borrow ditch thus restoring hydrology over several thousand acres. At the Emerald site in Lake County a 5-mile long serpentine river has been created through what was once cow pasture.

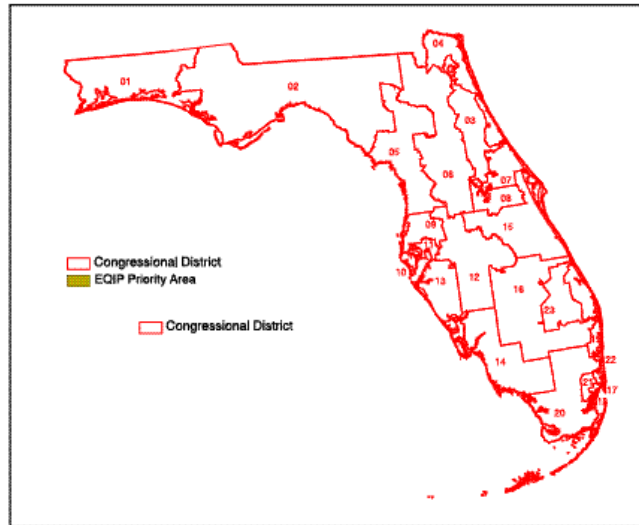
### Program Benefits

WRP provides major wildlife habitat benefits. Restored areas provide habitat for amphibians which are in world wide decline, endangered species such as the bald eagle and wood stork, reptiles such as the American alligator and migratory neo-tropical songbirds as well as many types animals, insects and plants. In addition WRP provides major water quality improvements simply by taking the land out of agricultural production and eliminating the need to pump nutrient laden waters into receiving rivers and streams. In addition, by slowing water down and spreading it over a restored wetland, natural filtration and settlement is enhanced. Restored wetlands also offer enhanced recreational opportunities for such activities as hunting, fishing and bird watching. Wetlands in Florida also provide substantial floodwater attenuation, which not only reduces downstream flood damages to homes and property, it also reduces the large, unnatural pulse of freshwater, which is so damaging to estuarine ecosystems.

### State Contact

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## Florida Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



## Florida Dollars, Contracts and Acres

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001			Cumulative Total (1997-2001)		
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Acres	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Acres
District 1						
District 2	99,5000	1	140	99,500	1	140
District 3						
District 4						
District 5				2,577,409	2	3690
District 6				7,425,409	4	8725
District 7						
District 8				19,152,756	9	17840
District 9						
District 10						
District 11						
District 12				3,160,213	2	1929
District 13						
District 14	415,837	1	152	415,837	1	152
District 15						
District 16	4,892,365	8	2930	6,959,009	11	6140
District 17						
District 18						
District 19						
District 20						
District 21						
District 22						
District 23	2,061,210	2	1362	4,943,170	3	3047
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>7,468,912</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4584</b>	<b>61,685,994</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58,727</b>

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